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Operational B-1B testers evaluate new weapons capability

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Public Affairs

May 21, 2004

5/21/04 – EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – Operational testing on the B-1B's new weapons capability began April 9, and since then, testers have evaluated from an operators' prospective mixed loads of weapons released in the developmental JJI - Joint Standoff Weapon Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Integration - program.

The Air Combat Command is also currently testing mixed weapons capabilities within the same weapons bay at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, in order to determine the best operational use of the weapons for warfighters.

"From an operational stand-point, the testing we do is designed to evaluate if the weapons tested will logistically work in a combat environment," said Lt. Col. Ken Bock, 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron director of B-1 operational test. "The advantage of a combined DT and OT program is that we are able to see the DT process and provide inputs that helped create a smooth transition to OT."

The B-1B Combined Test Force consists of both developmental and operational testers, all working toward upgrading the bomber's weapons capability as a part of the 10-year conventional Munitions Upgrade Program testing, or CMUP.

During operational test and evaluation, flight test engineers explore the mixed weapons capability to determine the most effective combination, said Colonel Bock.

"Engineers are using a new statistical way to gather data more efficiently during the OT missions, which allows us to gather more data with less missions," said 1st Lt. Mike Marlin, 31st TES engineer. "A lot of the OT engineers began work on the developmental stages of the program early on, and this gave us a tremendous advantage in that we were already familiar with the program."

Weapons released during operational testing include: JASSM, JSOW, Joint Direct Attack Munitions, Mk-82 - 500-pound inert



Operational testers began evaluating new weapons capabilities on the B-1B Lancer, shown in the photo, April 9. During the operational test and evaluation, testers released weapons like the Joint Standoff Weapon and the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile to operationally evaluate various mixed weapons loads. (Photo by Bobbi Garcia)

[\(high-resolution image\)](#)

bombs, Wind Corrected Munition Dispenser CBU-103, and WCMD CBU-105.

Many of the weapons tested during the developmental phase have already been fielded, others, including the JASSM and JSOW are just beginning to arrive at operational units.

"We almost have more flexibility than we can use, but having all these weapons to work with gives us a flexibility that most airframes don't have," said Colonel Bock.

At the end of May, operational testing at Edwards is scheduled to be complete with the last sortie planned to release two CBU-105s against a moving tank at the Utah Test and Training Range located near Hill AFB, Utah, added Colonel Bock.

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Last updated: 21 May 2004

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